

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH,
EDUCATION AND LABOR
WASHINGTON, DC 20540-5000

April 21, 2010

Via Electronic Transmission

Vivianne M. Chaumont
Director
Nebraska Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care
State of Nebraska
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Director Chaumont:

In the United States, the federal and state governments spend roughly \$317 billion every year on the Medicaid program. As Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Finance, I have an obligation to ensure that taxpayer dollars are appropriately spent on federal health care programs. Like the Medicare program, Medicaid suffers from systemic weaknesses that lead to fraud, waste, and abuse across the program, resulting in higher costs and less health care to those who are in need. The overutilization of prescription drugs, whether through drug abuse or outright fraud, plays a significant role in the rising cost of our healthcare system. The purpose of this letter is to request information regarding certain outliers in Nebraska's Medicaid program and what steps Nebraska takes to monitor rates of utilization.

In recent inquiries, I have asked the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services about physicians prescribing mental health drugs at astonishingly high rates. In addition to these concerns, a recent CNN report detailed the increasing abuse of OxyContin, Roxicodone, and Xanax. Specifically, the report described the role some pain management clinics and physicians play in the black market for these drugs. I write today to better ascertain how high rates of both mental health and pain medication utilization are affecting the Medicaid program, as well as how Nebraska's rates compare to the national rates.

To that end, please provide charts that list of the top ten Medicaid prescribers of the following drugs for the years 2008 and 2009. For each prescriber, please provide his/her prescriber identifier, and the number of prescriptions written per drug per year, and the total amount billed to Medicaid per drug, separated for each year.

- Abilify;
- Geodon;
- Seroquel;
- Zyprexa;

- Risperdal;
- OxyContin;
- Roxicodone; and
- Xanax.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation and request that you provide the requested documents and written responses by no later than May 5, 2010. In your reply, please format information into a chart like the examples provided below. All formal correspondence should be sent electronically in PDF format to Brian_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov or via facsimile to (202) 228-2131. Of course should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact Christopher Armstrong of my Committee staff at (202) 224-4515.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member

Attachment

Drug X, 2008

Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medicaid
123456789	25,000	250,000
234567891	24,000	240,000
345678912	23,000	230,000
456789123	22,000	220,000
567891234	21,000	210,000
678912345	20,000	200,000
789123456	19,000	190,000
891234567	18,000	180,000
912345678	17,000	170,000
012345678	16,000	160,000

Drug X, 2009

Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medicaid
123456789	25,000	250,000
234567891	24,000	240,000
345678912	23,000	230,000
456789123	22,000	220,000
567891234	21,000	210,000
678912345	20,000	200,000
789123456	19,000	190,000
891234567	18,000	180,000
912345678	17,000	170,000
012345678	16,000	160,000



May 5, 2010

Brian M. Downey
Investigative Assistant
U.S. Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Dear Mr. Downey:

Attached please find the Nebraska Medicaid data requested in Senator Grassley's April 21, 2010 letter related to payments in 2008 and 2009 for Abilify, Geodon, Seroquel, Zyprexa, Risperdal, Risperidone, Oxycontin, Rocicodone, Oxycodone, Xanax and Alprazolam.

Please contact me at vivianne.chaumont@nebraska.gov or 402-471-2135 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vivianne M. Chaumont". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vivianne M. Chaumont, Director
Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care
Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services

Attachment

cc: Senator Mike Johanns
Senator E. Benjamin Nelson

Abilify, 2008

Prescriber ID	Total RX	Total Paid by Medicaid
280118400	1710	\$676,017.86
280117824	783	\$358,617.33
280118519	738	\$278,556.03
280115956	597	\$254,416.06
280120434	513	\$192,277.01
280119273	494	\$199,600.14
280115151	491	\$181,815.34
280119276	451	\$151,586.12
280118636	388	\$176,198.50
280118960	376	\$140,641.87

Abilify, 2009

Prescriber ID	Total RX Count	Total Paid by Medicaid
280118400	1868	\$835,010.05
280117824	641	\$394,272.93
2829110780	610	\$296,893.36
280118519	584	\$241,432.33
280115151	555	\$244,442.45
280115956	474	\$219,284.13
280118960	468	\$192,195.13
280118636	462	\$246,929.90
2829110205	462	\$220,649.21
280119273	436	\$192,273.96

Geodon, 2008

Prescriber ID	Total RX Count	Total Paid by Medicaid
280118636	428	\$137,863.95
280118400	413	\$126,294.00
2829110237	318	\$74,142.04
280120434	217	\$63,911.53
280115956	216	\$77,973.50
280117824	182	\$47,162.20
280117008	154	\$68,049.55
280120203	153	\$61,941.80
280122524	146	\$53,955.30
280124311	137	\$55,341.66

Geodon, 2009

Prescriber ID	Total RX Count	Total Paid by Medicaid
280118636	357	\$122,692.65
280118400	324	\$120,851.99
2829110237	302	\$77,461.91
280120434	211	\$66,666.78
280117824	205	\$55,711.16
280116475	202	\$123,577.77
280115956	184	\$71,486.54
280124311	169	\$81,793.76
2829110887	166	\$71,636.80
280117008	161	\$64,024.08

Seroquel, 2008

Prescriber ID	Total RX Count	Total Paid by Medicaid
280118636	910	\$239,608.42
280118400	900	\$233,225.18
280121753	811	\$240,037.52
280117824	787	\$266,531.70
280115956	644	\$183,300.77
280118519	621	\$153,407.53
280122678	458	\$129,220.82
280120478	428	\$45,369.03
280117008	387	\$173,876.16
280118151	362	\$66,081.97

Seroquel, 2009

Prescriber ID	Total RX Count	Total Paid by Medicaid
280118400	1117	\$286,361.47
280118636	1060	\$260,550.56
280115956	681	\$211,485.94
280121753	674	\$227,498.35
280117824	669	\$255,960.17
280120478	469	\$64,120.57
280118519	459	\$132,257.03
280122678	385	\$123,059.28
280117803	382	\$59,379.97
2829110780	353	\$94,439.40
280118318	353	\$121,448.20

Zyprexa, 2008

Prescriber ID	Total RX Count	Total Paid by Medicaid
280118636	467	\$197,940.91
280115956	358	\$161,487.38
280118400	281	\$125,868.57
280117824	243	\$122,136.37
2829110435	198	\$51,180.58
280120434	194	\$65,940.35
2829110205	185	\$53,101.75
2829110069	169	\$63,336.24
280117556	168	\$103,929.09
280115151	165	\$51,769.02

Zyprexa, 2009

Prescriber ID	Total RX Count	Total Paid by Medicaid
280118400	477	\$220,399.24
280118636	420	\$162,389.83
280115956	320	\$165,192.60
280117556	219	\$145,325.64
2829110069	208	\$102,379.90
2829110435	192	\$81,801.80
2829110205	188	\$66,512.38
280124311	181	\$42,291.91
280117824	159	\$88,657.55
280120434	154	\$64,527.27

Risperdal, 2008

Prescriber ID	Total RX Count	Total Paid by Medicaid
280117824	711	\$214,371.41
280118400	645	\$148,250.59
280122678	618	\$169,988.08
280117803	487	\$62,890.25
280118636	336	\$77,020.18
280115956	309	\$94,600.55
280115151	307	\$61,695.03
280112659	294	\$97,006.51
280118761	289	\$56,507.42
280119273	248	\$51,317.82

Risperdal, 2009

Prescriber ID	Total RX Count	Total Paid by Medicaid
280118400	43	\$16,297.97
2802165	43	\$22,517.15
280112184	38	\$10,221.02
280114597	32	\$10,996.04
2829110704	31	\$10,272.54
280120497	25	\$7,593.45
280117824	24	\$3,080.59
280118636	21	\$7,792.07
280113577	18	\$2,809.02
280115956	16	\$1,430.00

Risperidone, 2008

Prescriber ID	Total RX Count	Total Paid by Medicaid
280117824	444	\$113,851.67
280122678	438	\$101,153.76
280118400	429	\$88,754.27
280117803	249	\$45,744.26
280115956	199	\$57,293.51
2829110744	198	\$31,756.33
280112659	195	\$57,846.42
280119273	178	\$30,557.26
280115151	177	\$40,731.76
280118761	173	\$30,581.86

Risperidone, 2009

Prescriber ID	Total RX Count	Total Paid by Medicaid
280122678	955	\$81,728.69
280118400	803	\$50,541.08
280117803	793	\$23,304.97
280117824	775	\$62,278.20
2829110744	503	\$22,100.37
280119273	492	\$21,557.10
280118636	470	\$29,226.11
280112659	469	\$35,473.13
280121753	427	\$40,526.72
2829110069	420	\$19,791.08

Oxycontin, 2008

Prescriber ID	Total RX Count	Total Paid by Medicaid
280117703	139	\$55,848.18
280115494	109	\$31,625.81
2829110541	78	\$25,533.67
280117067	68	\$23,503.48
280119546	62	\$14,274.13
280118889	58	\$19,390.19
280117903	35	\$5,468.03
280122799	33	\$21,429.06
280121372	32	\$2,583.97
280124467	31	\$6,478.63

Oxycontin, 2009

Prescriber ID	Total RX Count	Total Paid by Medicaid
280117703	197	\$71,673.07
280115494	180	\$56,218.26
280118889	65	\$31,469.51
280121372	60	\$5,153.08
2829110541	53	\$16,452.01
280122341	50	\$8,004.48
280117067	50	\$18,328.20
2802144	46	\$7,492.60
280122799	45	\$20,972.74
280119203	40	\$11,306.85

Roxicodone, 2008

Prescriber ID	Total RX Count	Total Paid by Medicaid
280118322	1	\$10.66
280119833	1	\$37.28
2801NUE	1	\$42.29

Roxicodone, 2009

Prescriber ID	Total RX Count	Total Paid by Medicaid
280114758	2	\$55.08
280124867	2	\$67.46
280117403	1	\$1.10
280123686	1	\$5.07
280120252	1	\$5.86
280115494	1	\$6.24
2829110714	1	\$9.31
280120763	1	\$11.47
280120754	1	\$14.69
2829110568	1	\$14.69
280116442	1	\$14.69
280123654	1	\$15.02
280119722	1	\$19.24
280120173	1	\$20.66
2801TEP5898	1	\$29.12
280119415	1	\$33.12
280119724	1	\$38.66
280118887	1	\$40.56
280119744	1	\$42.92
280111959	1	\$43.26
280116433	1	\$48.36
280123526	1	\$53.33
280123308	1	\$56.71
280114959	1	\$58.99

Oxycodone, 2008

Prescriber ID	Total RX Count	Total Paid by Medicaid
2829110541	234	\$25,637.46
280117067	89	\$7,400.16
280117621	57	\$6,967.67
280117703	55	\$17,906.36
280121560	44	\$552.55
280115494	43	\$7,447.27
280121889	42	\$3,883.44
280119294	40	\$2,914.71
280119666	38	\$7,247.46
280118006	38	\$10,392.20

Oxycodone, 2009

Prescriber ID	Total RX Count	Total Paid by Medicaid
2829110541	153	\$14,529.59
280117067	76	\$4,026.82
280116431	44	\$3,379.86
280121560	43	\$401.67
280120627	41	\$712.62
280110515	38	\$696.33
280119722	35	\$477.67
280118066	35	\$5,358.80
280115494	34	\$2,971.05
280113149	33	\$2,843.87

Xanax, 2008

Prescriber ID	Total RX Count	Total Paid by Medicaid
N/A	0	\$0.00

Xanax, 2009

Prescriber ID	Total RX Count	Total Paid by Medicaid
280121189	1	\$387.26

Alprazolam, 2008

Prescriber ID	Total RX Count	Total Paid by Medicaid
280118636	436	\$4,052.96
280115494	394	\$2,760.60
280117008	384	\$3,431.33
280115956	379	\$3,306.83
280115151	372	\$4,154.09
280120434	343	\$2,587.61
280118400	336	\$4,638.65
280117556	320	\$2,809.37
2829110537	260	\$2,311.31
280114942	241	\$2,182.63

Alprazolam, 2009

Prescriber ID	Total RX Count	Total Paid by Medicaid
280115494	571	\$4,037.21
280118636	450	\$3,823.47
280118400	431	\$6,315.27
280117008	383	\$3,703.67
280120434	323	\$2,486.78
280115956	321	\$2,739.43
2829110537	318	\$3,043.14
280115151	307	\$3,309.78
280117556	294	\$2,531.94
280114942	281	\$2,566.85